



NWCG Smoke Committee July/2013 Activity Update



Outreach and Messaging

- Re-formatting SmoC's public website Air Quality and Fire Issues on MyFireCommunity.net to make it more user-friendly and organized - send Mike comments.

2013 International Smoke Symposium

- Call for papers closed July 12th. Steering committee is reviewing the submitted papers.
- Registration is now available online - Internet participation offered as well.
- No charges for workshops on Monday: Transportation Safety and Superfog modeling, and Smoke Tools/PNW AirFire w/ BlueSky and other tools (2-3 hours).
- 68 oral presentations in four concurrent tracks and 25 posters.
- 7 special focus sessions: Transportation Safety/Gary Curcio, with 8-9 speakers, Black and Brown Carbon/Brooke Hemming/EPA, Biomass and Emissions Tradeoffs/USFS, DESCO3 Fire and Ozone/PM Effects/Tom Moore WRAP, Wildland Fire Response Guide for Public Officials/Susan Stone/EPA, SERDIP Fire Behavior and Smoke Science Review/DoD, Smoke and Public Perception/Christine Olsen/OSU.
- Plenary talks on Climate Change and Public Health, and Global Detection of Wildland Fire.
- Countries represented: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Puerto Rico, Spain.
- Rx Fire Council Coalition Governing Board meeting will overlap Monday and Tuesday.

ARA and Wildfire Air Quality Response Program updates

- Lee Tarney took over for Mike Broughton on West Fork in CO
- Unhealthy Air forecasts for the Las Vegas area from Carpenter Fire - No ARA assigned
- Mike got two monitoring stations from FS Region 2 as well two from MTDC - Very helpful as obtaining monitors from the cache was unsuccessful - they could not fill orders because several units needed to go back to MetOne for recalibration.

SmoC to co-host with WRAP a DEASCO3 tools webinar on the August 22nd call

- Could be a large call, the web conferencing will be handled by Air Sciences, so we will probably have a different call in number, same time though.
- SmoC Outreach - Summary of the presentation to JFSP.

NWCG Business

- \$14,000 in NWCG funds have been allocated to the 2013 International Smoke Symposium.
- NWCG board meeting - Mark Jones/BIA approved as Fuels Committee Chair.
- Elaine getting close to finalizing RX Guide
- Firefighter Math website link posted on NWCG
- NWCG eShare - 2013/2014 budget update and emphasis areas for 2014.
- Variety of comments emailed out on two projects we would like to discuss at the eShare.
- In discussion - Data Mgt Committee proposed to replace the Information Technology Committee.

JFSP and SmoC

- Cindy raised our concerns to Doug and Al, the reply re-iterated the way we have interacted with JFSP to date. There is commitment for further dialogue between JFSP and SmoC, we have to be careful of conflict of interest, making sure that those involved in deciding what the proposal calls will be are not the same folks who will be proposing projects under those calls.

Subcommittee Report-outs

Smoke Technical Topics

- 2013 Western Air Modeling workshop.
 - Discussions on emissions & AQ related to fire.
 - Discuss w/EPA about averaging fires over time, how this is done.
 - Mark suggested a workgroup coordinated through the SmoC Tech topics subcommittee.
- SMG is continuing

Smoke Training

- Call 7/31 - Discuss Transportation Safety Video update on project.



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Smoke Managers

- Discussed Transportation Safety track for the Int'l Smoke Symposium and will survey smoke managers to check attendance.
- Good discussion on comments between burners and regulators.
- Looking at including prescribed fire councils. Compiling contact lists to help communications. Mark Melvin/executive director is a good point of contact.

Round Robin Topics

- Mike - Discussing with Brenda McDowell on archiving old MyFireCommunity files.
- Ed - Contacted JFSP Knowledge Consortia, Allen Long with the Southern Fire Exchange. Scheduling a collaborative call between SmoC and the Southern Fire Exchange to discuss working together on projects, e.g. Smoke and AQ newsletter.
- JFSP preliminary (not finalized) notice of fall research topics has been released this fall focusing on emission formation and human health impacts. Al, Doug, and Cindy are the contacts.
- Gary - Preparing a summary of what the CO monitor company would like to share, and the potential collaboration for SmoC and Risk Mgt.
- Susan - BlueSky for 7 different domains are available:
 - CONUS 9 & 16 km resolutions
 - CANSAC 6 km for western US and 2 km over CA and NV
 - Northwest 4 km domain for WA OR ID and most of MT
 - 3k for WA, part of OR, part of ID
 - Experimenting with a 4 km domain over FL
- Offering 2 sets of runs/domain, standard HYSPLIT with puff mode and experimental with HYSPLIT and particle mode
- Mountain Fire in CA is showing up on the CANSAC 2 km run
- CONUS Central and eastern US are showing up on the forecast runs
- Discussion making BlueSky resources available to fire managers
- Set up for customized runs
- Mike sent out OR wildfire response protocol for severe smoke episodes.
- FS and National Cache samplers are GOES capable with data available through AirNow Tech.
- Mountain Fire in California, Ron Sherron deployed on that one which generated some interest in ARA. Rick Graw and Andrea Holland are ARA deployed on Warm Springs Reservation in OR
- We anticipate having 7 or 8 monitors available in cache next week.
- ID is the most active state with fires at this time.
- EPA ozone primary standard has stood the test of the Supreme Court.
- Susan talked to Gordon Andersson, says 'hello' to the group, asked if anything has happened with the EPA smoke fire policy. He's doing well.
- NACAA Criteria Pollutants Committee Call July 24th:
- Exceptional events interim guidance documents and status of rule development - Phil Lorang, EPA Senior Policy Advisor, Air Quality Policy Division
 - Still planning to do an exceptional events rulemaking and have listening sessions for last 2 weeks in August - waiting on clearance from upper mgmt. No expressions of concern, just not yet told to send invitations.
 - Phil Lorang relaying information for Bill Harnett/EPA: EPA still plans to schedule meetings for discussions with state and local air agencies on development of fire policy - With the 34% cut in the EPA budget, it would be a disservice to stakeholders to make plans to hold meetings before knowing whether or not they could travel to the meetings. Initially thought these meetings would be held in first fiscal quarter. Would rather hold in-person meetings rather than conference calls. Still same plan to have 3 meetings - state air agencies, state agencies (forestry and agricultural), non-governmental (NGOs and landholders).
 - Phil met with Sarah Bittleman/EPA Agricultural Affairs Advisor to the Administrator today before call to brief her on status of exceptional events guidance and fire policy. She is eager to move forward on both of the issues.